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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>31 August 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9 and 11-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9 and 11-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible

for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has

been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37

CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/31/2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

<u>Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, first paragraph</u>

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first

paragraph, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1, 7 and 13-

16 has been withdrawn.

<u>Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, first paragraph</u>

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been withdrawn in view of

the amendment of claims 1-8, 11 and 12.

<u>Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103</u>

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Duplicate Claims, Warning

Applicant is advised that should claim 1, 7 and 13 be found allowable, claims 14-18 will

be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in

an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing,

despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other

as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 7 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing

to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter

which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to

one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed,

had possession of the claimed invention.

As recited in claims 1 and 7, the claimed limitation, *said access criteria comprising criteria*

selected from the group consisting of trade secret criteria, confidentiality among business partners criteria,

established business relationship criteria, confidential information criteria,..., host status, guest status, original

equipment manufacturer status, contract equipment manufacturer status, and user ID, was not described in

the specification.

As recited in claim 7, the claimed limitation, *allowing controlled access to individual groups of*

data contained within said requested object according to an individual user's predetermined privileges in

response to said access criteria associated with said groups of data contained within said redacted object, was

not described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by
another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent
granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2)
of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-9 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Gervais et al. [US 6,381,579 B1].

Regarding claims 1, 17 and 18, Gervais teaches a method and a business-entity data-

exchange system *for providing the transfer of and the controlled access to a version of an object and other*

associated information of a file by a plurality of users from different business entities, said business entities being

business partners or potential business partners producing products and component parts from different

companies throughout a product supply chain (Gervais, Abstract). The Gervais system comprises:

a database for storing an object and associated information (Gervais, FIG. 5 illustrates a

database for storing "Xspan Briefing Center" resource as *object* and "AAA Supplier Network",

"Project Alpha" and "Project Omega" as *associated information*), *the object comprising distinguishable*

groups of data (The "Xspan Briefing Center" comprising "AAA Supplier Network", "Project Alpha"

and "Project Omega" as *distinguishable groups of data*),

> *each group of data having associated access criteria for access to the groups of data* (Gervais,
>
> Col. 9 Lines 60-67, read and read/write access criteria);
>
> *said data comprising multiple elements selected from the group consisting of product data,*
>
> *supply chain data, component part data, subcontracting company data, partnership data, design data,*
>
> *development data, access privilege data, trade secret data, confidential information data, business*
>
> *relationship data, business document data, business agreements data, OEM products and component*
>
> *data, CEM products and component data, bill of material data, change order data, component part*
>
> *object data, component part linking data, component part identification data, component part number*
>
> *data, part attribute data, part affiliation data, part product context data, specifications drawing data,*
>
> *color data, size data, type data, price data, quantity data, find number data, cross reference data, related*
>
> *information data, earlier version data, history of change data, text document data, graphics drawing*
>
> *data, other attribute data, redacted data, discovery privilege data, cost data, component parts*
>
> *specifications data, product specifications data quantity received data, quantity needed data, availability*
>
> *data, supplier type data, geographical information, and purchase order data* (As shown in FIG. 5,
>
> data comprising "AAA Supplier Network" as *supply chain data* and "Project Alpha" and
>
> "Project Omega" as *business document data*);
>
> *said access criteria comprising criteria selected from the group consisting of trade secret*
>
> *criteria, confidentiality among business partners criteria, established business relationship criteria,*
>
> *confidential information criteria, predetermined privileges set by the owner of the information criteria,*
>
> *host status, guest status, original equipment manufacturer status, contract equipment manufacturer*
>
> *status, and user ID* (Access criteria comprising read and read/write as *privileges* (Gervais,
>
> Col. 9 Lines 60-67). The read and read/write criteria are predetermined by the owner of
>
> the resource (Gervais, Col. 11 Lines 17-39));

an application server configured with memory and operation software code to control access to data

stored in the database and to set up and send a document file having a representation of an object and associated

documents that are stored in the database (EnterpriseXspan Environment Server (Col. 4 Lines 30-33)

as *an application server*. The *memory and operation software code* are inherited features of

EnterpriseXspan Environment Server. EnterpriseXspan Environment Server *control access to data*

stored in the database, e.g., "Xspan Briefing Center", "AAA Supplier Network", "Project Alpha" and

"Project Omega" by checking user identity and authenticate using Lotus Domino Application

(Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-5). The Lotus Domino Application determines who can read and edit

the document. If a user is rejected by the application, that document will not appear to that

rejected user (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 6-13). As seen, access to a document with associated

documents in FIG. 5, e.g., "AAA Supplier Announcements" and associated "Project Alpha" and

"Project Omega", as *a document file having a representation of an object and associated documents that are*

stored in the database is controlled by Lotus Domino Application);

access data application code stored in the memory and executable by the application server (Name and

Address Book is used by Lotus Domino Application to control access based on Reader and

Author name fields in Name and Address Book (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-13). The Reader and

Author name as *access data application code* is *executable by* Lotus Domino Application as *the*

application server. Storing the Reader and Author name *in the memory* is an inherited feature of

Gervais technique),

said access data application code being responsive to said access criteria associated with said

groups of data contained within a version of an object and to predetermined modification privileges for

allowing controlled access to modify individual groups of data contained within the version of the object

by an individual user (Each entity in the system hierarchy of containers and resources has

both a group of users and a group of managers. The user group has read access and

the management group has read/write access to the entity (Gervais, Col. 9 Lines 60-67).

As shown in FIG. 7, the string "$Managers" is used to represent the group of all system

managers in the NetTop Hierarchy and the string "$Users" is used to represent the

group of all users in the hierarchy. String such as "M1", "M2" and "M3" are used to

represent individual users for creating and managing the resources. Strings such as

"U1", "U2" and "U3" are used to represent users for viewing the resources only (Gervais,

Col. 11 Lines 26-39). The Gervais teaching as discussed indicates *access data application*

code in the form of Reader and Author names, e.g., "M1", "M2", "M3", U1", "U2" and "U3",

being responsive to said access criteria associated with said groups of data contained within a version of

an object, e.g., read and read/write access criteria associated with "AAA Supplier

Announcements", "Project Alpha" and "Project Omega" within "Xspan Briefing Center" in

the original version, *and to predetermined modification privileges for allowing controlled access to*

modify individual groups of data contained within the version of the object by an individual user, e.g.,

predetermined read/write privileges for modifying "AAA Supplier Announcements",

"Project Alpha" and "Project Omega" within "Xspan Briefing Center" in the original

version by a user that has the privilege);

and wherein the version of the object may be viewed or modified by said individual user, herein

termed a requested object, is a redacted version where the data that is redacted varies according to said

individual user's predetermined access or modification privilege (As disclosed by Gervais, if a

user's name is not in the Reader Names field of Name and Address Book, then that

document will not appear to the user through an interface (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 10-13).

Thus, the original version of "Xspan Briefing Center" may be viewed by individual user is

a redacted version, e.g., documents will not appear if the user does not have access to

them, and the documents which are redacted varies according to predetermined read

access);

and in which said predetermined access or modification privileges of said individual user vary

according to the status of the business partnership between the business entity that said individual user

is affiliated with and the business entity that controls said data exchange system (The predetermined

read and read/write accesses vary according to the status of business partnership

between the business entity that the user is affiliated with as in FIG. 6A and the system

administrator that controls the system (Gervais, Col. 8 Lines 60-65 and Col. 9 Lines 60-

67)).

Regarding claim 7, Gervais teaches Gervais teaches a method for *controlling access to*

business-entity data-exchange objects stored in electronic from (Gervais, Abstract). The Gervais method

comprises:

storing an object in as database (Gervais, FIG. 5 illustrates a database for storing "Xspan

Briefing Center" resource as *object*), *the object comprising distinguishable groups of data* (The "Xspan

Briefing Center" comprising "AAA Supplier Network", "Project Alpha" and "Project Omega" as

distinguishable groups of data),

each group of data having associated access criteria for access to the groups of data (Gervais,

Col. 9 Lines 60-67, read and read/write access criteria);

said data comprising multiple elements selected from the group consisting of product data,

supply chain data, component part data, subcontracting company data, partnership data, design data,

development data, access privilege data, trade secret data, confidential information data, business

relationship data, business document data, business agreements data, OEM products and component

data, CEM products and component data, bill of material data, change order data, component part

object data, component part linking data, component part identification data, component part number

data, part attribute data, part affiliation data, part product context data, specifications drawing data,

color data, size data, type data, price data, quantity data, find number data, cross reference data, related

information data, earlier version data, history of change data, text document data, graphics drawing

data, other attribute data, redacted data, discovery privilege data, cost data, component parts

specifications data, product specifications data quantity received data, quantity needed data, availability

data, supplier type data, geographical information, and purchase order data (As shown in FIG. 5,

data comprising "AAA Supplier Network" as *supply chain data* and "Project Alpha" and

"Project Omega" as *business document data*);

   said access criteria comprising criteria selected from the group consisting of trade secret

criteria, confidentiality among business partners criteria, established business relationship criteria,

confidential information criteria, predetermined privileges set by the owner of the information criteria,

host status, guest status, original equipment manufacturer status, contract equipment manufacturer

status, and user ID (Access criteria comprising read and read/write as *privileges* (Gervais,

Col. 9 Lines 60-67). The read and read/write criteria are predetermined by the owner of

the resource (Gervais, Col. 11 Lines 17-39));

   controlling the access to data stored in the database using an application server configured to set up a

redacted version of an object, herein termed a requested object, according to access criteria established for a user

(EnterpriseXspan Environment Server (Col. 4 Lines 30-33) as *an application server*.

EnterpriseXspan Environment Server *control access to data stored in the database,* e.g., "Xspan

Briefing Center", "AAA Supplier Network", "Project Alpha" and "Project Omega" by checking

user identity and authenticate using Lotus Domino Application (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-5). The

Lotus Domino Application determines who can read and edit the document. If a user is rejected

by the application, that document will not appear to that rejected user (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 6-

13). As seen, the original version of "Xspan Briefing Center" may be viewed by individual user is

a redacted version, e.g., documents will not appear if the user does not have access to them,

and the documents which are redacted varies according to predetermined read access as *a*

redacted version of an object, herein termed a requested object, according to access criteria established for a user is controlled by Lotus Domino Application);

storing software code for controlling the operation of said application server's CPU in said application server's memory (This is an inherited feature of Gervais technique. The Lotus Domino Application as *software code for controlling the operation* of EnterpriseXspan Environment Server as *application server's CPU* must be stored in EnterpriseXspan Environment Server's *memory*);

transferring said requested object to a user in the form of a document file having said requested object and any associated documents requested by a user contained therein (FIG. 5 indicates *requested object*, e.g., "Xspan Briefing Center" is *transferred* to *a user in the form of a document file having said requested object and any associated documents requested by a user contained therein*, e.g., "AAA Supplier Network", "Project Alpha" and "Project Omega");

allowing controlled access to individual groups of data contained within said requested object according to individual user's predetermined privileges in response to said access criteria associated with said group of data contained within said redacted object (Each entity in the system hierarchy of containers and resources has both a group of users and a group of managers. The user group has read access and the management group has read/write access to the entity (Gervais, Col. 9 Lines 60-67). If a user's name is not in the Reader Names field of Name and Address Book, then that document will not appear to the user through an interface (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 10-13). The Gervais teaching indicates *in response to said access criteria associated with said group of data contained within said redacted object*, e.g., "Xspan Briefing Center" with not appear documents is a redacted object with respect to user that does not have user's name in the Reader Names field of Name and Address Book, *allowing controlled access to individual groups of data contained within said requested object according to individual user's predetermined privileges*, e.g., access to the groups of data in FIG. 5 is controlled based on read and read/write privileges of that particular user);

in which said predetermined access of said individual user vary according to the status of the business

partnership between the business entity and that said individual user is affiliated with and the business entity that

controls said data exchange system (The predetermined read and read/write accesses vary according

to the status of business partnership between the business entity that the user is affiliated with

as in FIG. 6A and the system administrator that controls the system (Gervais, Col. 8 Lines 60-65

and Col. 9 Lines 60-67));

and wherein said business entities are from different companies (Gervais, Col. 4 Lines 29-42 and

FIG. 6A).

Regarding claims 13, 14, 15, 16 and 19, Gervais teaches business-entity data-exchange

device, comprising:

a computer program storage device readable by a digital processing apparatus (A memory and CPU

are inherited features of Gervais teaching);

a program stored on the program storage device and including instructions executable by the digital

processing. apparatus for controlling the apparatus to perform a method for viewing and modifying an object to

allow a user to view and modify a redacted version of an object stored in a file (EnterpriseXspan

Environment Server (Col. 4 Lines 30-33)), comprising:

computer readable code means for establishing an object in a storage location (Gervais, FIG. 5

illustrates a database for storing "Xspan Briefing Center" resource as *object*);

said object containing data comprising one or more elements selected from the group consisting of

product data, supply chain data, component part data, subcontracting company data, partnership data, design

data, development data, access privilege data, trade secret data, confidential information data, business

relationship data, business documents data, business agreements data, OEM products and components data,

CEM products and components data, bill of material data, change order data, component part object data,

component part linking data, component part identification data, component, part number data, part attribute

data, part affiliation data, part product context data, specifications drawing data, color data, size data, type data, price data, quantity data, find number data, cross-reference data, related information data, earlier version data, history of change data, text document data, graphics drawing data, other attribute data, redacted data, discovery privilege data, cost data, component parts specifications data, product specifications data, quantity received data, quantity needed data, availability data, supplier type data, geographical information, and purchase order data (As shown in FIG. 5, data comprising "AAA Supplier Network" as *supply chain data* and "Project Alpha" and "Project Omega" as *business document data*);

computer readable code means for identifying a user to have limited access to information associated with the object (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-13);

computer readable code means for establishing privilege access criteria that define the scope of access of a version of the object for the user (Gervais, Col. 9 Lines 60-67);

computer readable code means for receiving an object request by a requestor (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-13);

computer readable code means for verifying the requestor's user privilege access criteria (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-13); and

computer readable code means for transmitting a redacted version of the requested object in the form of a redacted document that masks information according to the requestor's user privilege access criteria (FIG. 5);

in which said user privilege access criteria vary according to the status of the business partnership between the business entity that said individual user is affiliated with, and the business entity that controls said data exchange system (The predetermined read and read/write accesses vary according to the status of business partnership between the business entity that the user is affiliated with as in FIG. 6A and the system administrator that controls the system (Gervais, Col. 8 Lines 60-65 and Col. 9 Lines 60-67)); and

wherein said business entities are from different companies (Gervais, Col. 4 Lines 29-42 and FIG. 6A).

Regarding claim 2, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Gervais further discloses *access data application code enables controls the ability of said individual user to read the contents of said requested object that was sent by the application server according to access privileges associated with said individual user* (Gervais, Col. 9 Lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 3, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 2, Gervais further discloses *access data application code enables said individual user to modify the contents of said requested object; and store the modified contents in said memory of said application server* (Gervais, Col. 9 Lines 60-67 and storing the modified contents in the memory is an inherited feature of Gervais teaching).

Regarding claim 4, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 3, Gervais further discloses *access data application code enables said individual user ability to modify includes the ability to delete information contained in said requested object; and store said modified requested object in said memory of said application server* (Gervais, Col. 9 Lines 60-67 and storing the modified contents in the memory is an inherited feature of Gervais teaching).

Regarding claim 5, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 3, Gervais further discloses *access data application code enables said individual user ability add data to said requested object; and store said modified requested object in said memory of said application server* (Gervais, Col. 9 Lines 60-67 and storing the modified contents in the memory is an inherited feature of Gervais teaching).

Regarding claim 6, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above

with respect to claim 1, Gervais further discloses *individual user's access to the redacted version of the*

object is determined by a business relationship to produce products (Gervais, Col. 9 Lines 60-67) *and*

defined by the host according to the need of information in a product chain (Gervais, Col. 8 Lines 60-65),

and wherein said requested object is configured to reveal limited information according to a guest user's

predetermined access privileges (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 10-13).

Regarding claim 8, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above

with respect to claim 7, Gervais further discloses the steps of:

receiving an object request by a individual user (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-14);

verifying the individual user's user privilege access criteria (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-14); and

transmitting a requested object configured to reveal information contained with in said requested object

according to the individual user's user privilege access criteria (Gervais, Col. 10 Lines 1-14).

Regarding claim 9, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above

with respect to claim 7, Gervais further discloses the step of *establishing a version of an object by*

loading information into the version of the object into separate groups having separate access privilege criteria

(FIG. 5 and Col. 9 Lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 11, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed

above with respect to claim 8, Gervais further discloses the steps of *extracting the*

individual user's user identification from the object request, verifying the individual user's user identification and

identifying the groups of data within the requested object to which the individual user has access (Col. 9 Line

61-Col. 10 Line 20).

Regarding claim 12, Gervais teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed

above with respect to claim 7, Gervais further discloses the step of *transmitting a redacted version of*

an object by sending a requested object to the individual user that contains the groups of information to which

the individual user has access to and that excludes groups of information associated with an object that is

redacted so that the individual user has limited access (Col. 9 Line 61-Col. 10 Line 20).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to HUNG Q. PHAM whose telephone number is 571-272-4040. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, TIM T. VO can be reached on 571-272-3642. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you

would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the

automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

L.P. Pham
HUNG Q PHAM
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2168

October 18, 2007